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SUBJECT: VENEZUELA OFFERS MEETING ON PORT SECURITY VISIT

REF: CARACAS 1580

1. (SBU) Economic Counselor was contacted November 26 by Nelson Dominguez of Venezuela's National Institute of Aquatic Spaces (INEA). Dominguez identified himself as the head of INEA's maritime security unit and said he had been tasked by the President of INEA to meet with the Embassy to discuss our request for a Coast Guard port security visit. We agreed to meet at 2:00 pm on Monday, December 1. Economic Counselor will be accompanied by Coast Guard Attache Stephen Lesley. Dominguez volunteered that he had been involved in making the arrangements for the December 2004 visit of a Coast Guard International Port Security (IPS) Team; the report from that visit identified him as the Manager of INEA's Office of Systems Quality.

2. (SBU) This call came after repeated Embassy attempts over the past six months to follow up with INEA on this issue. We will report on the meeting outcome.
CAULFIELD